(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken against the miscreants to ensure that such incidents do not occur again?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. On 15.09.2009 an incident of stone pelting on train no. 2030 Dn. (Amritsar-New Delhi Sawarn Shatabdi Express) was reported in which window panes of 03 coaches were broken.

(d) A case *vide* crime no. 79/09 U/s 152 Railways Act was registered by GRPS/Panipat on 17.09.2009 and 02 boys were arrested. Effective patrolling and raids are being conducted in vulnerable sections and train escorting staff is briefed/to keep watch.

Loss to railway property

1027. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that railway property worth several crores of rupees was gutted and hundreds of passengers escaped getting roasted when a mob of locals went berserk and torched five coaches of Mahananda Express at Hathras Junction on 30th September, 2009;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the loss suffered by Railways in that incident; and

(c) whether Government has arrested some persons found involved in that incident and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 30.09.2009 local people and supporters of organizations/unions agitated demanding stoppage of Gomti and Magadh Express trains at Hathras. During the course of agitation, train no. 4083 (Mahananda Express) was stopped and hose pipe was disconnected due to which the train could not proceed ahead. The passengers were detrained safely and security arrangements were made by the civil/local police/Government Railway Police (GRP) and Railway Protection Force (RPF) authorities. The agitators burnt 06 sleepers and 05 general bogies causing loss amounting to Rs. 1,83,56,000/-.

(c) A case *vide* crime no. 155/09 U/s 147, 148, 336, 427, 436, 307, 353, 332 IPC and 151, 152 Railways Act and Government Property Damage Act was registered by GRPS/Hathras against 82 offenders out of which 47 were arrested.

Incidents of damage to railways property

1028. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that damaging railway property and stone pelting on trains have been happening regularly across the country and the same are not being reported;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that only six FIRs lodged in 9 months by Railways whereas Railways spends huge amount on repairing etc.; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to make damaging of Railway properties non-bailable crime and impose severe penalties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There have been stray incidents of Damage of Railway property and stone pelting on train. During the year 2009 (upto October). 92 cases have been reported over zonal Railways for which FIRs were lodged with concerned Government Railway Police Station/Local Police Station/Railway Protection Force Post.

(d) The offence of damage to Railway property is non-bailable as defined is section 151, 152 of The Railways Act, 1989.

Damage to railway property

†1029. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the loss occurred to railways property by the activities of naxalists, maoists and terrorists;

(b) the list of such losses, area-wise;

(c) the number of cases out of them against which Government filed the case in court;

(d) the economic loss occurred to Railways due to dharnas, protests and accidents during the last three years; and

(e) the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Facilities for senior citizens

†1030. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal of her Ministry whereby senior citizens would be allotted lower berth at the time of booking of railway ticket; and

(b) whether Government has any solution to difficulties being faced by senior citizens on this count despite various facilities provided to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Following provisions have been made to facilitate senior citizens in getting lower berth:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.